



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
State Laboratory Institute  
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD  
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH  
COMMISSIONER

Bureau of Communicable Disease Control  
(617) 983-6550

## Memorandum

To: Health Insurers, Health Plans and Providers

From: Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager

Date: December 2007

Subject: Decreased Availability of State Supplied Vaccines

- Meningococcal Conjugate (MCV4)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)
- Varicella Vaccine

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Due to unprecedented uptake of several vaccines over the past several months and limited funding, the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization regrets to announce limitations on the availability of three vaccines. Meningococcal conjugate (MCV4), Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) and Varicella vaccines, previously available from the state for routine catch-up, will now be supplied only in limited quantities for routine catch-up vaccination, with priority to Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible\* children and adolescents.

Detailed information on the availability of all vaccines provided by the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization can be found in the *Childhood Vaccine Availability* and *Adult Vaccine Availability* tables, accessible on the MDPH Immunization Program website:

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/cdc/epii/imm/imm.htm#management>.

- **MCV4 vaccine.** State-supplied MCV4 is available only for routine administration to one cohort of adolescents at 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry (11-12 years of age); for other children and adolescents at high risk for meningococcal disease due to medical conditions, travel or occupational risk; and for catch-up **only** for VFC eligible 13-18 year olds.
  - State-supplied MCV4 is **not** available for non-VFC-eligible children at high school entry or college freshmen living in dormitories.
- **Tdap vaccine.** State supplied Tdap is available only for routine administration to one cohort of adolescents at 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry (11-12 years of age) and for catch-up **only** for VFC-eligible 13-18 year olds.

- **Varicella vaccine.** State supplied varicella vaccine is available only for routine administration at 12-15 months of age (1<sup>st</sup> dose) and 4-6 years of age (2<sup>nd</sup> dose); for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose catch-up at 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry (11-12 years of age); and for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose catch-up for adolescents in other age groups **only** if they are VFC eligible.

Due to these changes, providers will need to privately purchase MCV4, Tdap and varicella vaccines to catch-up their non-VFC eligible population. Please reimburse for these privately purchased vaccines.

Providers are also continuing to purchase MCV4, Tdap and varicella vaccine for their patients over 18 years of age as well as HPV vaccine for their non-VFC eligible adolescent and adult female patients. Please continue to reimburse for this privately purchased vaccine.

If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability, please contact the Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.

\* To be eligible for the VFC program, a child must be less than 19 years of age and meet one of the following criteria:

- be enrolled in Medicaid;
- be without health insurance;
- be an American Indian or Alaska Native; or
- receive care at a federally qualified community health center.